

LIEB

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CIA 5-02.1
 Pers: McCarthy, Eugene (Sen)
 Pers: Lindsay, John (Rep)
 CIA 1-01 McCone, John A
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 CIA 4 (Arhens) (Massadegh)
 (Bay of Pigs)

EDITORIALS

Let's Stop Baiting the CIA

Last October a Central Intelligence Agency man in Saigon got his name in the papers, lost his cover and had to be transferred. This incident, together with an uneasy feeling that the CIA was working at cross-purposes with the State Department, precipitated a wave of criticism both in the press and in Congress. It was not the first such wave. The CIA has always made many Americans uncomfortable because some of its activities—such as covert operations—are by nature contrary to the U.S. tradition of candor and nonintervention in international affairs. And the CIA is peculiarly vulnerable to critics because it cannot answer them without risking that very secrecy. Anyway, who likes spooks?

Senator Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.) and Congressman John Lindsay (R., N.Y.) are among the CIA's new-wave critics, accusing it of being inadequately controlled and making its own foreign policy. "It has taken on the character of an invisible government answering only to itself," says McCarthy. "This must stop."

Is the CIA in fact out of control? Senator Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.), one of its defenders, calls the charge "patently ridiculous." By statute, the CIA is answerable to the National Security Council and the President, hence it cannot "make its own foreign policy" but only execute the President's, if the President is on the job. Similarly, abroad: the CIA's agents are responsible to our ambassadors and, as George Kennan testified on his return from Belgrade, "The authority of an ambassador over official American personnel within his territory is just about whatever he wants to make it . . . they have to respect his authority if he insists."

Moreover, the CIA is controlled by Congress as well, through three small but elite subcommittees—one in the Senate, two in the House. Members testify that CIA Director McCone or his deputies report regularly and frankly to them. But critics claim this is inadequate and demand a new joint Senate-House watch-

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